

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

November 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT Auditorium

Commission Members Present:

**MS Department of Corrections
MS Department of Information Technology Services
MS Department of Transportation
MS Department of Public Safety
MS Department of Homeland Security
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Supervisors Association
MS National Guard
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS Association of Fire Chiefs
MS Highway Safety Patrol**

**Chris Epps
David Litchliter
Willie Huff
Stephen Simpson
Jay Ledbetter
Keith Harkins
Joel Yelverton
Gary Ladd
Mike Womack (Kent Buckley)
Tom Lariviere (Kelly Elliot)
Michael Berthay**

Advisory Members Present:

**Senator Dean Kirby – Senate Finance Committee
Senator Nolan Mettetal – Senate Public Utilities
Representative Tyrone Ellis – House Public Utilities Committee
Representative Ray Rogers – House Public Utilities Committee**

Chairman Epps called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM and welcomed guests in attendance.

Chairman Epps called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Joel Yelverton made the motion and it was seconded by David Litchliter. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Epps recognized Joel Yelverton to report for the Procurement Review Committee. The City of Madison has annexed a new area, has additional officers and patrol cars, and has a need to expand their system. They are requesting fifty-one (51) mobile radios and seventy-nine (79) portable radios needed due to the expansion at a total cost of \$361,452. Joel Yelverton made the motion for approval and it was seconded by Willie Huff. The motion passed with none opposed.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance/Interoperability Committee and shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Grant Application Instructions for the NTIA/DHS Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. The State of Mississippi received an allocation of PSIC grant funds in the amount of \$10,989,345, with over 80% of that funding (less \$851,109 allocated for a strategic technology reserve) being passed through to local levels of government. Applications for PSIC funds under this grant will be limited to \$200,000 per requesting multi-jurisdictional application and are subject to project approval and availability of funds.

Chairman Epps called for a motion authorizing the Governance Committee review and approval of the PSIC Grant funding requests up to \$200,000. The Governance Committee will update the Commission on approved PSIC sub-grants at each months WCC meeting. Willie Huff made the motion and it was seconded by Gary Ladd. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Epps noted that Mike Murphy from Louisiana was present and Willie Huff explained the proposal that has been made by the Gulf States Regional Interoperability Consortium which Mr.

Murphy is representing. The gulf states of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama have been asked to each contribute 49/50K per year to the Consortium which is to perform certain duties, exercises and coordination between the three (3) states on matters that would benefit each state. Mr. Huff also noted that it has been decided to delay a decision on this matter until after the scheduled meeting of the Consortium on December 10-11, 2008 in Mobile, Alabama.

The Project Update was presented by Bill Roach. Mr. Roach stated that of the eighteen (18) towers proposed for Phase 1A, all of those tower sites are standing today. Seventeen (17) currently have equipment shelters, and radio electronics, and most have microwave electronics installed. Ten (10) are powered up and providing coverage. They are not yet networked and microwave is not optimized. He also noted that since we are ahead of schedule and with full funding of the project, we would not necessarily have to build from the south up. It would be possible to expand and do work in North Mississippi and complete the project by meeting in the central area.

Chairman Epps recognized Representative Tyrone Ellis who noted that there were several cities in North Mississippi who are anxiously awaiting the project and suggested that we put together a committee, get our needs/requests on paper and make an appeal to the legislature as soon as possible rather than waiting until the first of the year.

Mr. Litchliter provided a report on the monthly expenditures. Total expenditures for October were \$1,484,455.34. Interest income was \$11,929.43. The report indicated a cumulative expenses total of \$18,685,460.00 and a remaining balance of \$9,199,694.14 which at the current rate of expenditures should last at most, another three (3) months.

Chairman Epps recognized Mike Murphy from Louisiana who, acting on behalf of the Gulf States Regional Interoperability Consortium, invited the Mississippi WCC Commission to hold their monthly meeting in Mobile, AL on the second day of their meeting which would be on the 11th of December between 1:30 and 3:00 PM. Chairman Epps noted that it could depend upon the number of members who could be present at that time. He further advised that those members planning to go to Mobile should let David and Mike know as soon as possible.

Chairman Epps also noted that when emails are sent out announcing the next meeting, all members are asked to respond so that we will know how to proceed. Nine (9) members must be present in order to conduct the business of the commission. He also asked for members to provide their cell phone numbers if we do not have them already and noted that an updated list of MS WCC members was passed out; Warren Speed is now representing SafeCity Initiative. There was no other business to be discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2008, in the MDOT Auditorium at 1:30 PM.

Willie Huff made a motion to adjourn and Gary Ladd seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.